

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 IO-13
OIC-02 /049 W
-----018405 250929Z /10

R 241341Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5826

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAIR, ICAO, NU

SUBJECT: TRSB MICROWAVE LANDING SYSTEM AND ICAO ALL-WEATHER
OPERATIONS DIVISIONAL MEETING, MONTREAL, APRIL 4-21, 1978

REF: 77 STATE 303190

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON COLONEL FRANCISCO ULLOA, CHIEF OF CIVIL AERONAUTICS OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, TO DISCUSS MICROWAVE LANDING SYSTEMS AND THE UPCOMING MEETING IN MONTREAL.

2. ULLOA POINTED OUT THAT LAS MERCEDES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN MANAGUA DOES NOT HAVE MANY PROBLEMS IN THE AREA OF INSTRUMENT LANDING SYSTEM (ITS) AS IN THE LAST TWENTY YEARS THE AIRPORT HAS BEEN CLOSED ONLY TWO TIMES DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS--BOTH TIMES FOR TORRENTIAL RAIN STORMS WHICH LASTED ONLY FIFTEEN MINUTES.

3. ULLOA OPINED THAT THE MLS SYSTEM IS THE BEST IN THE WORLD AND INFORMED US THAT HE HAD SEEN THE U.S. SYSTEM DEMONSTRATED IN TECUCIGALPA, HONDURAS, LAST NOVEMBER DURING A REGIONAL CENTRAL AMERICAN CIVIL AVIATION MEETING. HE HAD ACTUALLY FLOWN IN A PLANE WHICH USED THE SYSTEM AND WAS VERY IMPRESSED, ESPECIALLY AS TEGUCIGALPA IS A RATHER DIFFICULT AIRPORT DUE TO THE CLOSE PROXIMITY OF RESIDENTIAL

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AREAS TO THE RUNWAY. THE BRITISH DOPPLER MLS WAS NOT DEMONSTRATED AT THE CONFERENCE, ALTHOUGH DESCRIPTIVE LITERATURE WAS AVAILABLE.

4. ULLOA FORESEES NO PROBLEM IN NICARAGUA'S SUPPORT THE US MLS. NICARAGUA, FOR CONVENIENCE IN OBTAINING SPARE PARTS, ETC., WOULD PREFER A SYSTEM FROM A NEAR-BY COUNTRY SUCH AS THE U.S. TO ONE FROM A COUNTRY FARTHER AWAY. HOWEVER, ING. HECTOR ALEMAN GOMEZ OF

HONDURAS REPRESENTS ALL THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND PANAMA BEFORE THE ICAO. ULLOA INDICATED THAT HE WILL CONTACT ALEMAN GOMEZ TO INFORM HIM OF OUR DISCUSSION AND HIS PREFERENCE FOR THE U.S. SYSTEM. HE PRESUMED THAT A PEPRESENTATIVE OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTTIES WILL ATTEND THE MEETING IN MONTREAL IN APRIL. ULLOA WILL ALSO RECOMMEND THAT A DISCUSSION OF THE MLS BE TAKEN UP AT THE REGIONAL CENTRAL AMERICAN CIVIL AVIATION MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY.

5. THE ONLY CONCERN THAT ULLOA EXPRESSED THROUGH-OUT THE ENTIRE CONVERSATION WAS THAT EVEN AIRPORTS LIKE MANAGUA WHICH HAVE FEW PROBLEMS WITH THE ILS SYSTEM COULD BE FORCED TO ADOPT THE MLS WITHIN THE NEAR FUTURE. EMBOFF INFORMED HIM THAT THE US IS PLANNING TO PORTECT THE ILS AND TO SUPPORT IT INTO THE 1990'S.

6. POUCHED MATERIAL ON MLS GIVEN TO ULLOA.
RUBENSTEIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, MICROWAVE EQUIPMENT, NAVIGATIONAL AIDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decapton Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANAGU00904
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780087-1003
Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780217/aaaaaocw.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 77 STATE 303190
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3489001
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRSB MICROWAVE LANDING SYSTEM AND ICAO ALL-WEATHER OPERATIONS DIVISIONAL MEETING, MONTREAL, APRIL 4-21, 1978
TAGS: EAIR, NU, ICAO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/59cd38d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014